

**From:** strapane  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 11/19/01 7:25pm  
**Subject:** MS ruling

Justice,

Your decision on Microsoft is a welcome sign of sanity in the petty politics that have pervaded this case from the beginning. We are all better off with a common platform for developers controlled by a solid company willing to invest far more than anyone else in ongoing research and development. Apple, by comparison, has had a dismal R&D record combined with the most anti-competitive behavior ever demonstrated by a computer company. Their squashing of Apple clone companies showed they were not competitive and were not interested in providing consumers with a good product at the best price. Even Linux companies charge nearly as much as Microsoft for their operating systems which were built largely on open-source code and contributions from thousands of volunteers. OK, Microsoft can be a bully and needs to be watched closely, but overall they have been good for consumers and the industry.

Your solution recognizes these facts and doesn't fall into the "tear down the giant" mentality that made a mess of the telephone industry where lesser measures might have left us with an amazing Bell Labs and a seamless nationwide wireless network. Microsoft will eventually provide regular users great new science like their data mining technology (included free with SQL 2000), or perhaps break-through speech recognition, thanks to your settlement.

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